

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
EMERGENCY ORDER**

WHEREAS, hospitals, nursing homes, and other residential care facilities subject to regulation pursuant to SC Code Ann. §44-7-20 *et seq.* and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto are required to prepare and maintain Emergency Evacuation Plans; and

WHEREAS healthcare facility plans must make adequate provisions for:

- (1) Coordinating with sheltering facilities that will receive patients from evacuation areas, so that sheltering facilities named in evacuation plans are aware of that designation and prepared to receive additional patients;
- (2) Demonstrating the capability for transporting residents and patients to sheltering facilities;
- (3) Planning for relocating staff or providing staff at the sheltering facilities;

WHEREAS there is a substantial potential that one or more hurricanes will threaten the South Carolina coast during a hurricane season; and

WHEREAS the identified deficiencies in facility evacuation plans must be corrected promptly;

NOW THEREFORE,

IT IS ORDERED, pursuant to SC Code Ann. §44-1-140 that, in addition to the requirements of Regulation 61-16, Standards for Licensing Hospitals and Institutional General Infirmaries, Section 207; Regulation 61-17, Standards for Licensing Nursing homes, Section B.8.; Regulation 61-84, Standards for Licensing Community Residential Care Facilities, Section 1401; Regulation 61-13, Standards for Licensing Habilitation Centers for the Mentally Retarded or Persons with Related Conditions, Section B.(8); and Regulation 61-103, Standards for Licensing Residential Treatment Facilities for Children and Adolescents, Section J.6.a.; Regulation 61-78, Standards for Licensing Hospices, Section 1701; and Regulation 61-93, Standards for Licensing Facilities that Treat Individuals for Psychoactive Substance Abuse or Dependence, Section 1502, each facility subject to one or more of the foregoing regulations shall prepare an Emergency Evacuation Plan that conforms to the following requirements:

- (1) (a) A Sheltering Plan for an alternate location to house patients or residents. This Plan shall include: full provision for at least the number of licensed resident or patients beds at that facility; the name, address and phone number of the Sheltering Facility (or Facilities) to which the patients or residents will be relocated during an emergency; a Letter of Agreement signed by an authorized representative of each Sheltering Facility which must include: the number of relocated patients or residents that can be accommodated; sleeping, feeding and medication plans for the relocated patients or residents; and provisions for accommodating relocated staff. The Letter of Agreement must be updated annually and whenever significant changes occur. For those facilities located in Beaufort, Charleston, Colleton, Horry, Jasper and Georgetown Counties, at least one Sheltering Facility must be located in a county other than the six named counties.

(b) In the event a hospital or nursing home is located in an area subject to an order of evacuation and current data from the Army Corps of Engineers indicates the facility will not be affected by the storm surge, the following information must be current and on file with the Department before the facility can be considered for exemption from the mandatory evacuation order:

- (i) A **Critical Data Sheet** must be complete and on file with the Department of Health and Environmental Control which certifies the following:
- Emergency power supply is available for a minimum of 72 hours;
 - A 72 hour medical supply is available on site;
 - A 72 hour supply of food and water is on site.

The **Critical Data Sheet** website for entering information is located at <http://scangis.dhec.sc.gov/cdatasheet/login.aspx>

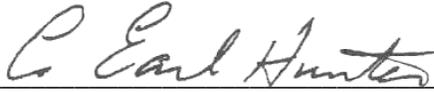
- (ii) Adequate staff must be available and on duty to provide continual care for the residents
- (iii) An engineer's report concerning the wind load the facility should withstand must be on file with the Department;
- (iv) The facility must request an exemption from the evacuation order from DHEC's Health Licensing Division.
- (2) A Transportation Plan for relocating the patients or residents. The Transportation Plan must include the number and type of vehicles required; how and when they will be obtained; who (by name or organization) will provide drivers; procedures for providing medical support and medications during relocation; the estimated time to accomplish the relocation; and the primary and secondary route to be taken to the sheltering Facility.
- (3) A Staffing Plan for the relocated patients or residents. The Staffing Plan must outline in detail how care will be provided to the relocated patients or residents, including the number and type of staff. If staffing will be provided by the Sheltering Facility, the Staffing Plan must be co-signed by an authorized representative of the Sheltering Facility. If staffing will be provided by the relocating facility, plans for relocating staff or assuring transportation to the Sheltering Facility (Facilities) must be provided.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that each facility shall communicate and coordinate with local Emergency Preparedness Divisions in the development and implementation of the Emergency Evacuation Plans.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED each facility shall certify to DHEC no later than June 1 of each year that the Emergency Evacuation Plan contains a Sheltering Plan, Transportation Plan, and Staffing Plan complying with the terms of this Order, and shall submit to DHEC the name(s) of the Sheltering Facility (Facilities). A copy of this Order shall be provided to each facility.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

8-30-04
Date



C. Earl Hunter
Commissioner